

CLAIMS

1. For use with a four-link hinge of the type typically used for
5 closure of a vehicle movable deck such as a trunk lid or engine compartment hood,
the hinge comprising a lower link bracket to be secured to the vehicle body, an upper
link bracket to be secured to the movable deck, and pivoting links connected between
the upper and lower brackets, an activating mechanism comprising:
 - (a) a driving arm having a proximal end and a distal end, the
10 driving arm being pivotal about its proximal end,
 - (b) a driver configured to drive the driving arm about its proximal
end,
 - (c) a track to be carried by the movable deck, and
 - (d) the distal end of the driving arm being coupled to the track for
15 movement therealong as the driving arm is pivoted about its proximal end.
2. The invention of claim 1 wherein the driving arm is pivotal
about an axis intersecting the lower bracket.
3. The invention of claim 2 wherein the lower link bracket
provides the pivot axis for the proximal end of the driving arm.
- 20 4. The invention of claim 1 wherein the track comprises an
extension of the upper link bracket.
5. The invention of claim 1 wherein the track is a channel and a
bearing couples the distal end of the driving arm to the channel, the bearing being
movable along the channel.
- 25 6. The invention of claim 1 wherein the driver is an electro-
mechanical driver having an output shaft coupled to the proximal end of the driving
arm and defining the axis about which the arm pivots.
7. The invention of claim 1 wherein the track is configured to be
placed in the central region of the deck to extend in the longitudinal direction of the
30 vehicle.

8. The invention of claim 7 wherein the driving arm proximal end is pivotally connectable to the central region of the vehicle and is generally in alignment with the track.

5 9. A vehicle trunk lid or engine compartment hood closure mechanism comprising:

(a) four-link hinge comprising a lower link bracket to be secured to the vehicle body, an upper link bracket to be secured to the vehicle lid or hood, pivoting links connected between the upper and lower link brackets,

10 (b) a driving arm having a proximal end and a distal end, the driving arm being pivotal about its proximal end,

(c) a driver configured to drive the driving arm about its proximal end,

(d) a track to be secured to the lid or hood, and

15 (e) the distal end of the driving arm being coupled to the track for movement therealong as the driving arm is pivoted about its proximal end.

11. The invention of claim 9 wherein the driving arm is pivotal about an axis intersecting the lower bracket.

12. The invention of claim 10 wherein the lower link bracket provides the pivot axis for the proximal end of the driving arm.

20 13. The invention of claim 9 wherein the track comprises an extension of the upper link bracket.

14. The invention of claim 9 wherein the track is a channel and a bearing couples the distal end of the driving arm to the channel, the bearing being movable along the channel.

25 15. The invention of claim 9 wherein the driver is an electro-mechanical driver having an output shaft coupled to the proximal end of the driving arm and defining the axis about which the arm pivots.

30 16. The invention of claim 9 wherein the track is configured to be placed in the central region of the lid to extend in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

5 16. The invention of claim 15 wherein the driving arm proximal end is pivotally connectable to the central region of the vehicle and is generally in alignment with the track.

 17. A closure mechanism for opening and closing a vehicle trunk lid comprising:

- 10 (a) a driving arm having a proximal end and a distal end,
 (b) a driver having an output that moves about its axis,
 (c) a track to be secured to the trunk lid extending generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, and
 (d) the driving arm being pivotal about its proximal end relative to
15 the vehicle and coupled to output of the driver, the distal end of the driving arm being coupled to the track for movement therealong as the driving arm is pivoted.

 18. The invention of claim 17 wherein the track is a channel and a bearing couples the distal end of the driving arm to the channel, the bearing being movable along the channel.

20 19. The invention of claim 17 wherein the driver is an electro-mechanical driver having an output shaft coupled to the proximal end of the driving arm and defining the axis about which the arm pivots.